Quadrilateral of roads, to connect the major ports of the country with the four metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Japan has already agreed to help India with technology and finance for setting up the high speed rails corridors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-availability of direct trains between Jhansi-New Delhi

†988. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of passengers travel daily between Jhansi and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether passengers face inconvenience due to non-availability of a direct train of general class on this route; and

(c) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to meet the above demand by extending the route of Taj Express from Nizamuddin to Jhansi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is substantial traffic between Jhansi and New Delhi stations.

(b) There are 30 pairs of trains which have general class coaches also. Besides 4 pairs of Rajdhani Expresses and a pair of Shatabdi Express are available between Delhi/New Delhi/Nizamuddin-Jhansi. These are

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

adequately catering to the needs of Delhi/New Delhi/Nizamuddin-Jhansi passengers.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to extend 2179/2180 Nizamuddin-Gwalior Taj Express upto jhansi due to operational and resource constraints.

Regulatory Authority for Pricing and Distribution of Steel

989. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering a proposal to appoint a regulator to look at the pricing and distribution issues of steel sector; and

(b) if so, how the proposed National Steel Regulatory Commission would ensure that the consumers face no shortage of steel and get it at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) In the 18th National Steel Consumers' Council meeting held in June, 2004 some consumers suggested formation of a National Steel Regulatory Body for keeping a check on steel prices. Since steel prices have been stable for the last few months. An independent regulatory body at this stage is not felt necessary. The price situation is being regularly monitored and Government may intervene, if necessary.

Concession in steel imports

†990. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given concession in the import of steel in order to control the prices of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what had been its impact on prices of steel; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.